

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2385

To require the Secretary of Energy to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of action plans aimed at reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. SABLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of action plans aimed at reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. AFFILIATED ISLAND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE**

2 **TEAM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) AFFILIATED ISLAND.—The term “affiliated  
5 island” means—

6 (A) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

7 (B) Guam;

8 (C) American Samoa;

9 (D) the Commonwealth of the Northern  
10 Mariana Islands;

11 (E) the Federated States of Micronesia;

12 (F) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

13 (G) the Republic of Palau; and

14 (H) the United States Virgin Islands.

15 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
16 the Secretary of Energy (acting through the Assist-  
17 ant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable  
18 Energy), in consultation with the Secretary of the  
19 Interior and the Secretary of State.

20 (3) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team  
21 established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

22 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as practicable after  
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall as-  
24 semble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts  
25 to address the energy needs of each affiliated island—

1           (1) to reduce the reliance and expenditure of  
2 each affiliated island on imported fossil fuels;

3           (2) to increase the use by each affiliated island  
4 of indigenous, nonfossil fuel energy sources;

5           (3) to improve the performance of the energy  
6 infrastructure of the affiliated island through  
7 projects—

8                 (A) to improve the energy efficiency of  
9 power generation, transmission, and distribu-  
10 tion; and

11                (B) to increase consumer energy efficiency;

12           (4) to improve the performance of the energy  
13 infrastructure of each affiliated island through en-  
14 hanced planning, education, and training;

15           (5) to adopt research-based and public-private  
16 partnership-based approaches as appropriate;

17           (6) to stimulate economic development and job  
18 creation; and

19           (7) to enhance the engagement by the Federal  
20 Government in international efforts to address island  
21 energy needs.

22       (c) DUTIES OF TEAM.—

23           (1) ENERGY ACTION PLANS.—

24                 (A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with  
25 subparagraph (B), the team shall provide tech-

1 nical, programmatic, and financial assistance to  
2 each utility of each affiliated island, and the  
3 government of each affiliated island, as appro-  
4 priate, to develop and implement an energy Ac-  
5 tion Plan for each affiliated island to reduce the  
6 reliance of each affiliated island on imported  
7 fossil fuels through increased efficiency and use  
8 of indigenous clean-energy resources.

9 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—Each Action Plan  
10 described in subparagraph (A) for each affili-  
11 ated island shall require and provide for—

12 (i) the conduct of 1 or more studies to  
13 assess opportunities to reduce fossil fuel  
14 use through—

15 (I) the improvement of the en-  
16 ergy efficiency of the affiliated island;  
17 and

18 (II) the increased use by the af-  
19 filiated island of indigenous clean-en-  
20 ergy resources;

21 (ii) the identification and implementa-  
22 tion of the most cost-effective strategies  
23 and projects to reduce the dependence of  
24 the affiliated island on fossil fuels;

1 (iii) the promotion of education and  
2 training activities to improve the capacity  
3 of the local utilities of the affiliated island,  
4 and the government of the affiliated island,  
5 as appropriate, to plan for, maintain, and  
6 operate the energy infrastructure of the af-  
7 filiated island through the use of local or  
8 regional institutions, as appropriate;

9 (iv) the coordination of the activities  
10 described in clause (iii) to leverage the ex-  
11 pertise and resources of international enti-  
12 ties, the Department of Energy, the De-  
13 partment of the Interior, and the regional  
14 utilities of the affiliated island;

15 (v) the identification, and develop-  
16 ment, as appropriate, of research-based  
17 and private-public, partnership approaches  
18 to implement the Action Plan; and

19 (vi) any other component that the  
20 Secretary determines to be necessary to re-  
21 duce successfully the use by each affiliated  
22 island of fossil fuels.

23 (2) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than  
24 1 year after the date on which the Secretary estab-  
25 lishes the team and biannually thereafter, the team

1       shall submit to the Secretary a report that contains  
2       a description of the progress of each affiliated island  
3       in—

4               (A) implementing the Action Plan of the  
5       affiliated island developed under paragraph  
6       (1)(A); and

7               (B) reducing the reliance of the affiliated  
8       island on fossil fuels.

9       (d) USE OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANIZATIONS.—

10   To provide expertise to affiliated islands to assist the af-  
11   filiated islands in meeting the purposes of this section, the  
12   Secretary shall consider—

13           (1) including regional utility organizations in  
14   the establishment of the team; and

15           (2) providing assistance through regional utility  
16   organizations.

17       (e) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
18   than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary re-  
19   ceives a report submitted by the team under subsection  
20   (c)(2), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate com-  
21   mittees of Congress a report that contains a summary of  
22   the report of the team.

1       (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
3 essary to carry out this section.

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